Docket No.: BRIXIUS-6
Appl. No.: 10/730,880

REMARKS

The last Office Action of June 10, 2005, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3 and 9-16 have been withdrawn from consideration due to an earlier restriction requirement and have now been canceled. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended. No fee is due.

Claims 1 and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bruun et al. (U.S. Patent 6,471,039).

It is noted with appreciation that claim 4 is indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, applicant wishes to defer amendments to this dependent claim in view of the arguments presented below regarding amended claim 1.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the remarks set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended herein, recites a conveyor system for transporting articles, in particular for transporting containers holding baggage pieces, with at least two sequentially arranged endless conveyor belts to define an upstream

conveyor belt and a downstream conveyor belt for transport of articles in a transport direction from the upstream conveyor belt to the downstream conveyor belt. The system further includes a drive unit having a first drive motor operatively connected to the upstream conveyor belt and a second drive motor operatively connected to the downstream conveyor belt, wherein the first and second drive motors each have an unregulated, load-torque-dependent rotation speed. Also included in the system is a control unit for setting a desired rotation speed for each motor, wherein the set rotation speed of the first drive motor depends on a weight of articles positioned on the upstream conveyor belt, and the set rotation speed of the second drive motor depends on a weight of articles positioned on the downstream conveyor belt.

Bruun controls the speed of the conveyor sections so that the speed of a conveyor section is substantially identical to the speed of the preceding conveyor section, taking into account the weight of the articles to control the acceleration of the various sections. Bruun discloses in col. 9, line 63, to col. 10, line 20:

> *[T]he data communication means of the preceding conveyor section communicates data relating to the weight of an article passing from the preceding conveyor section to the given conveyor section, from the control unit of the preceding conveyor section to the control unit of the given conveyor section so that the data relating to the weight of the article follows the article when it is being transported on the conveyor. The information about the weight of the article may be used by the control unit of the given*

conveyor unit as a further parameter to determine the desired downstream speed of the article. The weight information may also be used as a further parameter for determining the desired downstream acceleration of the article in embodiments of the invention where the articles may be transferred from one conveyor section to an adjacent conveyor section at a common rate of change of the speed.

Unlike Bruun, the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, uses a simple regulator which sets/changes the rotation speed of an otherwise unregulated motor, whose rotation speed changes with the supported torque, i.e., by taking into account the transported weight of the articles. As stated in Para. [0005] of the instant application, servo motors with a stabilized rotation speed can also be used. However, conveyors of this type are relatively expensive. As stated more particularly in Para. [0029], "the conveyor belt 60 is regulated with a smaller desired rotation speed $n_{soll}(t)$, since the total transported weight has been reduced. Conversely, the desired rotation speed $n_{soll}(t)$ of the asynchronous motor of conveyor belt 70 is higher than at time t_1, since the increased weight of the first article 8 loads the conveyor belt 7. The changes in the desired rotation speeds $n_{soll}(t)$ of the asynchronous motors is selected so that the actual transport speed v_{ist} does not change from time t_1 to time t_2. As a result, the two conveyor belts 60, 70 still operate at the same speed."

In other words, the desired rotation speed of the asynchronous motor(s) of

conveyor belt(s) is/are adjusted without measuring the actual speed of the drive(s). Applicant therefore submits that at least the features of motors having an *unregulated, load-torque-dependent rotation speed* and *setting a desired rotation speed for each motor depending on a weight of the transported articles* are neither taught nor suggested by Bruun.

Accordingly, claim 1 as amended herein is patentable over the art of record. Claims, which depend from claim 1, are then also patentable.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims 4-8, these claims depend on amended claim 1, share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and allowance of claims 1 and 4-8, and of new claims 17-21 are thus respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the

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Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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